

Our
President,
**Donna
Gallaway**



GREETINGS FFS MEMBERS & FRESHMEN FANS

As I write this column just a few days after a wonderful weekend in Nashville, I am still hearing those unique Freshmen harmonies in my head. It was so great to reconnect with our society members and with the Freshmen again after what seemed like a really long time. The hotel was absolutely lovely from the well-appointed rooms to the many open spaces. The rooftop area was especially well designed for gathering or just relaxing in the open air seating.

Linda Harrison and Mark Schlichting deserve high praise for organizing this event which I know takes a great deal of time, work and energy. They did a great job in every aspect of this scaled back convention-like gathering by keeping the favorite Fresh Talk and Jam Session along with two fabulous concerts by the Freshmen. The two buffet lunches were indeed robust as advertised, and the food was excellent.

I was excited to meet the newest member of the Freshmen, Chris Peters again having met him in Bay City, Michigan as a member of the Bean Tones. He is such an energetic and exuberant addition to the group, and he can really sing and play that bass! Amazing how many charts he has learned in such a short time! He has definitely found his place in the group and seems comfortable performing with the seasoned Freshmen.

It was a treat to have Ryan Howe back with us again and to hear him sing in the Jam Session and with the Freshmen on a few songs. We still love you Ryan, and thank you for coming to Nashville! The one hundred or so Fresh Fans who were fortunate to be part of this gathering were happy to see and hear you again.

The FFS Board of Directors had an opportunity to meet on Saturday morning, and we had a

TOGETHER AGAIN in Nashville

By Gil Peterson

The Nashville reunion was nothing less than a smashing success! Linda Harrison, Mark Schlichting and crew deserve a standing ovation. We were all totally impressed with the entire event from start to finish. Every phase of the event went flawlessly. I know first hand that events like this are very involved and difficult to organize and orchestrate. Without question, they did a masterful job from start to finish. This reunion served as a perfect vehicle to renew friendships and make new memories that will linger on through the years. We are all hopeful that another reunion like this will happen in the very near future.

Many of us had not had the opportunity to hear Group 28 with Chris Peters singing the lead. I personally was very impressed with the cohesiveness of the group and overall iconic "Freshmen" sound that has entertained audiences since 1948. No other group in the history of the music industry can come even close to challenging that record. Both performances, Friday and Saturday, were superb. Welcome to our family, Chris. We all love you!

Speaking of lead singers, I was delighted to see Ryan Howe looking so well and singing so great. It was such a pleasure and we extend our very best wishes to you always. You will always be a part of our "Freshmen" family.

I am hopeful that you all had a safe trip home and I truly hope that "We'll be together again".

Best fresh wishes.

productive meeting. We are looking for ways to cut costs or increase our revenue or both, as our big conventions were our largest sources of income, and it is no longer feasible to undertake something of that nature anymore. However, it would be nice to have another scaled back event like Nashville!

To do even that, we would need some funding, so FFS is open to receiving donations. We have no paid staff; we all serve as volunteers. So if you are looking for something good to do with part of your tax refund, send a check to FFS!! We are not tax deductible, but we love to be out there being the best fans of the best vocal group anywhere on the planet!

